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10
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
13 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION
14

15 In re

16 **FRANK McCORMICK,**

17 Petitioner,

18 **On Habeas Corpus.**

NO. C 07-04246 JSW

**ANSWER TO PETITION FOR WRIT
OF HABEAS CORPUS;
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES**

Judge: The Honorable Jeffrey S.
White

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21 As an Answer to the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus filed by California state inmate
22 Frank McCormick, proceeding pro se in this habeas corpus action, Respondent Warden Ben
23 Curry admits, denies, and alleges as follows:

24 1. McCormick is in the lawful custody of the California Department of Corrections and
25 Rehabilitation serving a life sentence following his 1983 conviction in Monterey County for
26 second degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon. (Ex. A, Abstract of Judgement.)

27 2. McCormick's Petition does not challenge his conviction; instead, he challenges
28 the Board of Parole Hearings' November 14, 2005 decision finding him unsuitable for parole.

1 Specifically, he alleges that his federal due process rights were violated because there is no
2 evidence to support the Board's decision. (*See generally* Pet.)

3 3. On August 8, 1983, McCormick and his co-criminal Alfred Johnson Jr., approached a
4 car occupied by Stephen Edwards and Alvin Brooks. (Ex. B, Subsequent Parole Consideration
5 Hearing at 66; Ex. C, Probation Officer's Report at 2-5; Ex. D, Life Prisoner Evaluation Report,
6 April 2005, at 1-2.) Johnson and Edwards began arguing and McCormick pulled out a gun,
7 which he pointed at Brooks. (*Id.*) As the argument between the men intensified, a shot was fired
8 and Edwards was shot in the heart with a bullet from McCormick's gun. (*Id.*) Edwards died
9 moments later and McCormick and Johnson fled to McCormick's residence. (*Id.*)

10 3. On November 14, 2005, McCormick was provided an opportunity to be heard during
11 his parole consideration hearing (Ex. B at 17-64), and the Board issued a decision explaining
12 why he was found unsuitable for parole. *Greenholtz v. Inmates of the Nebraska Penal and*
13 *Correctional Complex*, 442 U.S. 1 (1979) (opportunity to be heard and decision only clearly
14 established United States Supreme Court law regarding the federal due process rights of inmates
15 at parole consideration hearings); (Ex. B at 65-71). In denying parole, the Board found that the
16 commitment offense was carried out in a cruel and callous manner, in that McCormick shot an
17 unarmed man at close range, piercing his aorta and killing him almost immediately. (*Id.* at 65.)
18 The Board noted: that the motive for the crime was trivial given that the murder was committed
19 based on an argument between two other individuals; that there was a potential for other victims
20 because Brooks was also in the car when Edwards was shot; and that McCormick did nothing to
21 help Edwards — rather he fled the scene. (*Id.* at 65-67.) The Board also indicated that
22 McCormick's disciplinary-free period was insufficient to prove to the Board that he would not
23 pose an unreasonable risk of safety to society if released from prison. (*Id.* at 69, 71.) Finally, the
24 Board ordered a new psychological evaluation to clarify McCormick's potential for violence if
25 released, evaluate the significance of alcohol as it related to McCormick's commitment offense,
26 including his ability to refrain from using alcohol upon release, and explore whether McCormick
27 had come to terms with the underlying cause(s) of the commitment offense. (*Id.* at 70.)

28 4. McCormick filed a petition with the Monterey County Superior Court raising

1 substantially the same challenges to the Board's 2005 decision that he asserts in his federal
2 Petition. The superior court denied McCormick's petition on October 6, 2006 in a four-paged
3 reasoned decision. (Ex. E, Superior Court Pet. & Denial.)^{1/} The court determined that there was
4 some evidence supporting the Board's conclusion that McCormick's commitment offense was
5 carried out in a cruel in callous manner because McCormick shot Edwards at close range while
6 he was seated in a parked car. (Ex. E at 2.) The court also noted that the Board found that
7 McCormick failed to render any assistance to Edwards after shooting him, that there has a
8 potential for additional victims, and that the motive for the crime was trivial because it was
9 committed as a result of an argument that did not involve McCormick. (*Id.*) In addition to the
10 commitment offense, the court found that there was some evidence supporting the Board's
11 decision to deny parole based on: (1) McCormick's disciplinary history and the Board's need to
12 ensure McCormick is able to follow the "rules of society" on parole; and (2) the Board's request
13 for additional psychological evidence regarding McCormick's commitment offense and his
14 potential for danger if released from prison. (*Id.* at 2-3.) Finally, the court noted that the Board's
15 parole denial was not based solely on the nature of the commitment offense (or any immutable
16 factors) but that the Board's determination relied in part on requesting additional information to
17 ensure that McCormick would no longer pose an unreasonable risk of safety to society before
18 granting his release. (*Id.* at 3.)

19 5. McCormick pursued his claims by filing substantially the same petition for writ of
20 habeas corpus in California's Sixth Appellate District, which was denied on January 12, 2007.
21 (Ex. F, Appellate Court Pet. & Denial.)

22 6. McCormick pursued his claims by filing substantially the same petition for writ of
23 habeas corpus in the California Supreme Court, which was denied on April 11, 2007. (Ex. G,
24 Supreme Court Pet. & Denial.)

25 7. Respondent admits that McCormick has exhausted his state court remedies regarding
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27 1. To avoid repetition and unnecessary volume, the exhibits attached to McCormick's state
28 court petitions have been removed. Respondent will provide these documents upon the Court's
request.

1 his allegations challenging the sufficiency of the evidence used by the Board to find him
2 currently unsuitable for parole. Respondent denies that Agrio has exhausted his claims to the
3 extent that they are more broadly interpreted to encompass any systematic issues beyond this
4 particular review of parole denial.

5 8. Respondent denies that the state courts' adjudication of McCormick's claims was
6 contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established federal law as
7 determined by the Supreme Court. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)(1).

8 9. Respondent denies the state courts' adjudication of McCormick's claims was based on
9 an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)(2).

10 10. To preserve the issue, Respondent denies that McCormick has a federal liberty interest
11 in parole under California Penal Code section 3041, notwithstanding the Ninth Circuit's contrary
12 decision in *Sass v. Cal. Bd. Prison Terms*, 461 F.3d 1123, 1127 (9th Cir. 2005). *See Greenholtz*
13 *v. Inmates of Neb. Penal & Corr. Complex*, 442 U.S. 1, 12 (1979) (liberty interest in conditional
14 parole release date created by unique structure and language of state parole statute); *In re*
15 *Dannenberg*, 34 Cal. 4th 1061, 1087 (2005) (California's parole scheme is a two-step process
16 that does not impose a mandatory duty to grant life inmates parole before a suitability finding);
17 *Sandin v. Connor*, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995) (no federal liberty interest in parole because serving
18 a contemplated sentence does not create an atypical or significant hardship compared with
19 ordinary prison life). Thus, McCormick fails to assert a basis for federal jurisdiction.

20 11. To preserve the issue, notwithstanding the Ninth Circuit's contrary decision in *Irons v.*
21 *Carey*, 505 F.3d 846, 851 (9th Cir. 2007), Respondent denies that the Supreme Court has ever
22 clearly established that a state parole board's decision must be supported by some evidence.

23 12. Respondent affirmatively alleges that if the some-evidence standard applies to federal
24 review of parole denials, there was some evidence supporting the Board's 2005 decision to deny
25 McCormick parole.

26 13. Respondent alleges that there is no clearly established federal law precluding the
27 Board's reliance on McCormick's commitment offense as a reason to deny him parole. *Carey v.*
28 *Musladin*, ___ U.S. ___, 127 S. Ct. 649, 654 (2006) (United States Supreme Court emphasized that

1 under AEDPA, only Supreme Court holdings regarding the specific issue presented may be used
2 to overturn valid state court decisions).

3 14. Respondent denies that the Board's decision denying parole violated McCormick's
4 federal due process rights.

5 15. If the petition is granted, McCormick's remedy is limited to a new parole consideration
6 hearing before the Board that comports with due process. *Benny v. U.S. Parole Comm'n*, 295
7 F.3d 977, 984-985 (9th Cir. 2002); *In re Rosenkrantz*, 29 Cal.4th 616, 658 (2002).

8 16. Respondent admits that McCormick's claim is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1),
9 and that the petition is not barred by the non-retroactivity doctrine.

10 17. Except as expressly admitted in this Answer, Respondent denies the allegations of the
11 Petition.

12 18. McCormick fails to state or establish any grounds for habeas corpus relief.

13 For the reasons stated in this Answer and in the following Memorandum of Points and
14 Authorities, the Court should deny the Petition.

15 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

16 INTRODUCTION

17 McCormick's Petition should be denied because he received the only process due under
18 clearly established Supreme Court authority: the opportunity to be heard and a decision. Thus,
19 the Board's decision did not violate his federal due process rights. Finally, if the some evidence
20 test is applicable, and Respondent maintains it is not, McCormick's Petition should be denied
21 because there is some evidence supporting the Board's decision denying McCormick parole.

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ARGUMENT

THE STATE COURTS' ADJUDICATION OF MCCORMICK'S CLAIMS WAS NEITHER CONTRARY TO, NOR INVOLVED AN UNREASONABLE APPLICATION OF, CLEARLY ESTABLISHED FEDERAL LAW, NOR WAS IT BASED ON AN UNREASONABLE DETERMINATION OF THE FACTS.

A. The Standard of Review for Federal Habeas Petitions Brought by State Prisoners Is Highly Deferential to the State-Courts' Rulings.

Federal habeas relief for state prisoners was tightly constrained under the "highly deferential standard for evaluating state-court rulings" imposed by Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (AEDPA). *Woodford v. Visciotti*, 537 U.S. 19, 24 (2002) (per curiam). Under AEDPA, a state prisoner's federal habeas petition must be denied unless the state court's adjudication was contrary to, or involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as determined by the Supreme Court of the United States; or was based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in the State court proceeding. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d).

Under AEDPA, a state court decision is "contrary to" clearly established Supreme Court precedent "if it 'applies a rule that contradicts the governing law set forth in [Supreme Court] cases,' or if it 'confronts a set of facts that are materially indistinguishable from a decision'" of the Supreme Court and nevertheless arrives at a different result. *Early v. Packer*, 573 U.S. 3, 8 (2002) (quoting *Williams v. Taylor*, 529 U.S. 362, 405-406 (2000)). "What matters are the holdings of the Supreme Court, not the holdings of lower federal courts." *Plumlee v. Masto*, ___ F.3d ___, 2008 WL 151273 (9th Cir. Jan. 17, 2008) (en banc).²

Under the "unreasonable application" clause of § 2254(d) (1), a federal habeas court may grant the writ if the state court identifies the correct governing legal principle from the Supreme Court's decisions, but unreasonably applies that principle to the facts of the case. *Williams*, 529 U.S. at 413. A federal habeas court may not grant the writ "simply because that court concludes in its independent judgment that the relevant state-court decision applied clearly established

2. A copy of this recent decision is attached as Exhibit 11. Local Rule 5-133(i).

1 federal law erroneously or incorrectly. Rather, that application must also be unreasonable.” *Id.*
 2 at 412; *see also Lockyer v. Andrade*, 538 U.S. 63, 75 (2003) (it is “not enough that a federal
 3 habeas court, in its independent review of the legal question, is left with a ‘firm conviction’ that
 4 the state court was ‘erroneous.’”).

5 The federal court looks to the last reasoned state court decision as the basis for the state
 6 court judgment. *Avila v. Galaza*, 297 F.3d 911, 918 (9th Cir. 2002); *see Ylst v. Nunnemaker*, 501
 7 U.S. 797, 803-04 (1991).

8 **B. McCormick’s Petition Should Be Denied Because He Received All**
 9 **Process Due: an Opportunity to Be Heard and an Explanation for the**
 10 **Parole Denial.**

11 The Supreme Court has found that a parole board’s procedures are constitutionally adequate
 12 if the inmate is given an opportunity to be heard and a decision informing him of the reasons he
 13 did not qualify for parole. *Greenholtz v. Inmates of Neb. Penal & Corr. Complex*, supra, 442
 14 U.S. at 16. As a matter of “clearly established” federal law, a challenge to a parole decision will
 15 fail if the inmate has received the protections required under *Greenholtz*. *See Maynard v.*
 16 *Cartwright*, 486 U.S. 356, 361-62 (1988).^{3/} McCormick does not deny that he received an
 17 opportunity to be heard or the reasons he was denied parole. (Ex. B.) Thus, the state courts did
 18 not unreasonably apply clearly established federal law when they denied McCormick’s habeas
 19 petitions.

20 **C. The Some-Evidence Standard of Review Is Not Clearly Established Federal**
 21 **Law by the United States Supreme Court for Challenging Parole Denials.**

22 The some-evidence standard does not apply in federal habeas proceedings challenging
 23 parole denials because it is not clearly established federal law. The United States Supreme Court
 24 has reiterated that for AEDPA purposes, “clearly established federal law” refers only to the
 25 holdings of the nation’s highest court on the specific issue presented. *Carey v. Musladin*, __

26 3. The Supreme Court cited *Greenholtz* approvingly for the proposition that the “level of
 27 process due for inmates being considered for release on parole includes opportunity to be heard and
 28 notice of any adverse decision” and noted that *Greenholtz* remained “instructive for [its] discussion
 of the appropriate level of procedural safeguards.” *Wilkinson v. Austin*, 545 U.S. 209, 226 (2005).

1 U.S. ___, 127 S. Ct. at 653. In *Musladin*, a convicted murderer filed a federal habeas petition after
2 a state appellate court upheld the victim's family members' wearing of buttons with the victim's
3 photograph during the trial, concluding that it was not inherently or actually prejudicial based on
4 two United State Supreme Court cases. *Id.* at 651-52. The Court of Appeals for the Ninth
5 Circuit reversed, finding that the state court's decision was contrary to, or involved an
6 unreasonable application of, clearly established federal law – the prejudice test in the two United
7 State Supreme Court cases. *Id.* at 652. In vacating the Ninth Circuit's decision, the Supreme
8 Court stated that the cases relied on by the Ninth Circuit involved state-sponsored courtroom
9 practices – making a defendant wear prison clothing during trial and seating four uniformed
10 troopers behind a defendant during trial – that were unlike the private action of the victim's
11 family members' wearing of buttons. *Id.* at 653-54. The *Musladin* Court further noted that the
12 two cases were not clearly established federal law on the issue because the United States
13 Supreme Court “has never addressed a claim that such private-actor courtroom conduct was so
14 inherently prejudicial that it deprived a defendant of a fair trial.” *Id.* at 653. Consequently, the
15 Court held that the Ninth Circuit erred by importing a federal test for prejudicial state action in a
16 courtroom to private spectators' courtroom conduct. *Id.* at 654.

17 Again, in *Schriro v. Landrigan*, ___ U.S. ___, 127 S. Ct. 1933, 1942 (2007), the United States
18 Supreme Court factually distinguished two of its cases that the Ninth Circuit cited in holding that
19 the state court unreasonably applied clearly established federal law when finding ineffective
20 assistance of counsel claims frivolous. In *Landrigan*, a criminal defendant questioned by the
21 judge told the court that he did not want mitigating evidence presented (his attorney advised
22 otherwise). *Id.* at 1937-38. The United States Supreme Court reasoned that the two cases relied
23 on by the Ninth Circuit were not clearly established federal law by factually distinguishing them.
24 See *id.* at 1942. The Court noted that one case involved an attorney's failure to provide
25 mitigating evidence and the other case concerned a defendant who refused to help develop
26 mitigating evidence. *Id.* See also *Wright v. Van Patten*, ___ U.S. ___, 128 S.Ct. 743, 746 (2008)
27 (United States Supreme Court reversed the Seventh Circuit and upheld a state appellate court
28 determination that the defendant's right to counsel was not violated when defense counsel

1 appeared by speaker phone at a hearing because Supreme Court precedents did not clearly hold
2 that counsel's participation by speaker phone amounted to complete denial of counsel, the
3 equivalent to total absence. Accordingly, the Court concluded that the state appellate court's
4 determination was not contrary to, or an unreasonable application of, clearly established federal
5 law, as required to grant federal habeas relief).

6 Likewise, several recent Ninth Circuit decisions also emphasize that there can be no clearly
7 established federal law where the Supreme Court has never addressed a particular issue or
8 applied a certain test to a specific type of proceeding. For instance, in *Foote v. Del Papa*, 492
9 F.3d 1026 (9th Cir. 2007) the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's denial of a petition
10 alleging ineffective assistance of appellate counsel based on an alleged conflict of interest
11 because no Supreme Court case has held that such an irreconcilable conflict violates the Sixth
12 Amendment. *Id.* at *3-4. Similarly, in *Nguyen v. Garcia*, 477 F.3d 716 (9th Cir. 2007), the
13 Ninth Circuit upheld the state court's decision – finding that *Wainwright v. Greenfield*, 474 U.S.
14 284 (1986) did not apply to a state court competency hearing – because the Supreme Court has
15 not held that *Wainwright* applied to competency hearings and thus, was not contrary to clearly
16 established federal law. *Id.* at 718, 727. Finally, in *Locke v. Cattell*, 476 F.3d 46 (9th Cir. 2007),
17 the Ninth Circuit affirmed the denial of a federal habeas petition based on a proposed violation of
18 *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966) concluding that, because no Supreme Court case
19 supported petitioner's claim that his admission to a crime transformed a police interview into a
20 custodial interrogation, the state court's decision denying relief was not unreasonable under
21 AEDPA. *Cattell*, 476 F.3d at 53.

22 Accordingly, because *Superintendent v. Hill*, *supra*, 472 U.S. at 455-56 applied the some-
23 evidence standard to a prison disciplinary hearing and McCormick challenges his 2005 parole
24 consideration hearing, the some-evidence standard does not apply. Because *Greenholtz* is the
25 only United States Supreme Court authority describing the process due at a parole consideration
26 hearing when an inmate has a federal liberty interest in parole, the *Greenholtz* test, not the some-
27 evidence standard, should apply in this proceeding. Regardless, Respondent recognizes that the
28 Ninth Circuit has held otherwise, most recently in *Irons v. Carey*, *supra*, 505 F.3d 846, and will

1 argue this case accordingly.

2 **D. McCormick's Petition Should Be Denied Because There Is Some Evidence**
 3 **Supporting the Board's Decision and — As Required by AEDPA — the State**
 4 **Court Decision Upholding the Board's Parole Denial Based on a Reasonable**
 5 **Application of the Facts in Light of the Evidence Presented.**

6 Assuming McCormick has a federally protected liberty interest in parole, and if the
 7 “minimally stringent” some-evidence standard applies, then the requirements of due process are
 8 satisfied if there is “any evidence in the record that could support the conclusion reached by the
 9 board.” *See Hill*, 472 U.S. at 455-56 (applying some-evidence standard to prison disciplinary
 10 hearing). The some-evidence standard “does not require examination of the entire record,
 11 independent assessment of the credibility of witnesses, or weighing of the evidence;” rather, it
 12 assures that “the record is not so devoid of evidence that the findings of the . . . board were
 13 without support or otherwise arbitrary.” *Id.* at 457. Thus, both the “reasonable application”
 14 standard of AEDPA and the some-evidence standard of *Hill* are very minimal standards.

15 Although McCormick invites the Court to re-examine the facts of his case and re-weigh
 16 the evidence presented to the Board, neither AEDPA nor *Hill*'s some-evidence test permit this
 17 degree of judicial intrusion. McCormick bears the burden of proving that the state court's factual
 18 determinations were objectively unreasonable. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(1); *Hill*, 472 U.S. at 457;
 19 *Juan H. v. Allen*, 408 F.3d 1262, 1270 (9th Cir. 2005).

20 Moreover, in assessing the state court's review of McCormick's claims, not only should
 21 the appropriate deference be afforded under AEDPA to the state court's review, but deference is
 22 also due to the underlying Board decision. The Supreme Court has recognized the difficult and
 23 sensitive task faced by the Board members in evaluating the advisability of parole release.
 24 *Greenholtz*, 442 U.S. at 9-10. Thus, contrary to McCormick's belief that he should be paroled
 25 based on the evidence in support of parole presented at the hearing (*see generally*, Petn.), the
 26 Supreme Court has stated that in parole release, there is no set of facts which, if shown, mandate
 27 a decision favorable to the inmate. *Id.* Instead, under the some-evidence standard, the court's
 28 inquiry is limited solely to determining whether the state court properly found that the Board's
 decision to deny parole is supported by some evidence in the record, *i.e.*, any evidence. *Hill*, 472

1 U.S. at 455.

2 In this case, the Monterey County Superior Court concluded that there was some evidence
3 supporting the Board's decision denying McCormick parole based on the cruel and callous nature
4 of the commitment offense, in that McCormick shot Edwards at close range while he was seated
5 in a parked car. (Ex. B at 65; Ex. C at 2-5; Ex. D at 1-2; Ex. E at 2.) The court also noted that
6 the Board found that McCormick failed to render any assistance to Edwards after he shot him and
7 that the motive for the crime was trivial because it was committed as a result of an argument that
8 did not involve McCormick. (Ex. B at 65-66; Ex. E at 2.) In addition to the commitment
9 offense, the court found that there was some evidence supporting the Board's decision to deny
10 parole based on: (1) McCormick's disciplinary history and the Board's need to ensure
11 McCormick is able to follow the "rules of society" on parole; and (2) the Board's request for
12 additional psychological evidence regarding McCormick's commitment offense and potential
13 danger to society if released from prison. (Ex. B at 69-71; Ex. E at 2-3.) Finally, the court noted
14 that the Board's denial of parole was not based solely on the nature of the commitment offense,
15 but that the Board's determination relied in part on requiring additional information to ensure
16 that McCormick would no longer pose an unreasonable risk of safety to society before finding
17 him suitable for parole. (*Id.* at 3.)

18 Thus, if the some evidence test applies, the state court denials were not an unreasonable
19 application of clearly established United States Supreme Court law, nor did the state courts
20 unreasonably determine the facts. Instead, the state court properly determined that there is some
21 evidence in the record supporting the Board's decision, and McCormick's Petition should be
22 denied.

23 **E. No Clearly Established United States Supreme Court Law Precludes the**
24 **State Courts from Upholding the Board's Reliance on McCormick's**
Commitment Offense to Deny Him Parole.

25 McCormick contends that the Board violated his federal due process rights by relying on
26 immutable factors — the nature of the offense and pre-conviction factors — to find him
27 unsuitable for parole. (Petr. at 6.) Yet, there is no clearly established federal law as determined
28 by the United States Supreme Court that precluded the Board's reliance on McCormick's crime

1 as a reason to find him unsuitable for parole.^{4/} *Musladin*, 127 S. Ct. at 654; *Landrigan*, 127 S.
 2 Ct. at 1942. Although the Ninth Circuit's recent holdings suggest that continued reliance on the
 3 commitment offense may violate due process at some future date (*see, e.g., Irons*, 505 F.3d at
 4 854 (citing *Biggs v. Terhune*, 334 F.3d 910, 916-17 (9th Cir. 2003); *Hayward v. Marshall* (9th
 5 Cir. 2007) __ F.3d __, 2008 WL 43716 at *8, fn. 10 (court concluded that Governor's continued
 6 reliance on Hayward's commitment offense violated due process, but expressly limited its
 7 holding to the facts of Hayward's case and the nature of his specific conviction offense)), these
 8 holdings are irrelevant when conducting an AEDPA analysis. *Plumlee, supra*, __ F.3d __,
 9 2008 WL 151273 at *6 ("What matters are the holdings of the Supreme Court, not the holdings
 10 of lower federal courts").

11 Indeed, the Supreme Court recently highlighted the tight constraints imposed by AEDPA:

12 Because our cases give no clear answer to the question presented, let alone one in
 13 [Petitioner's] favor, "it cannot be said that the state court 'unreasonabl[y]
 14 appli[ed] clearly established Federal law.'" *Musladin*, 549 U.S. at __, 127 S. Ct.
 649, 654 (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)(1)). Under the explicit terms of §
 2254(d)(1), therefore, relief is unauthorized.

15 *Van Patten*, 2008 WL 59980, *4. Thus, because the Board's reliance on McCormick's
 16 commitment offense to deny parole is supported by California state law (Cal. Pen. Code, §3041;
 17 *Dannenberg*, 34 Cal.4th 1061, 1094 (2005)) and such reliance is not contrary to any clearly
 18 established United States Supreme Court law, McCormick's argument is without merit.

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28 4. Other than the commitment offense, there is no evidence that the Board relied on any pre-conviction factors in denying McCormick parole. (Ex. B.)

CONCLUSION

McCormick received all the process he was due under clearly established Supreme Court authority. Moreover, the record reflects that the Board's decision was supported by some evidence. Thus, the state courts' adjudication of McCormick's claims was not contrary to, nor did it involve an unreasonable application of, clearly established federal law, or an unreasonable determination of the facts. Accordingly, McCormick's Petition should be denied.

Dated: February 7, 2008

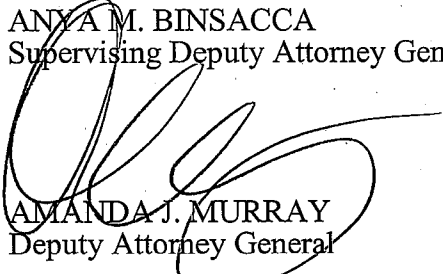
Respectfully submitted,

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL

Case Name: **McCormick v. Curry**

No.: **C 07-04246 JSW**

I declare:

I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General, which is the office of a member of the California State Bar, at which member's direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to this matter. I am familiar with the business practice at the Office of the Attorney General for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. In accordance with that practice, correspondence placed in the internal mail collection system at the Office of the Attorney General is deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business.

On **February 7, 2008**, I served the attached

**ANSWER TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS;
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the internal mail collection system at the Office of the Attorney General at 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000, San Francisco, CA 94102-7004, addressed as follows:

**Frank McCormick, C-78307
Correctional Training Facility
P.O. Box 689
Soledad, CA 93960-0689
In Pro Per**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on **February 7, 2008**, at San Francisco, California.

M.M. Argarin
Declarant

M.M. Argarin
Signature